



NWCG Position Task Book for Operations Branch Director (OPBD)

PMS 311-109

JUNE 2024

SIGNATURE PAGE

Initiation

Trainee's Name: _____

Initiated By: _____

Home Unit/Agency: _____

Title: _____

Home Unit Address: _____

Home Unit/Agency: _____

Phone Number: _____

Phone Number: _____

IQCS/IQS#: _____

Date: _____

Verification

I verify that _____ has successfully performed the tasks of the position, as documented on position evaluation records and the position evaluation table, and should be considered for certification in the position.

Final Evaluator Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Title: _____

Home Unit/Agency: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Agency Certification

I certify that _____ has met all the requirements for qualification in the position and that such qualification may be issued.

Certifying Official Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Title: _____

Home Unit/Agency: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR NWCG NEXT GENERATION POSITION TASK BOOK

The Next Generation Position Task Books (Next Gen PTBs) are designed to provide a format that enhances the feedback an evaluator provides to a trainee. An evaluator using the Next Gen PTB has a mechanism to rate how well the trainee performs each task and to provide written narratives to accompany the evaluation ratings using the position evaluation records.

The Next Gen PTB has three components: The **SIGNATURE PAGE**, **POSITION EVALUATION TABLE**, and **POSITION EVALUATION RECORDS**.

SIGNATURE PAGE:

The signature page documents three phases of the Next Gen PTB: initiation, verification, and agency certification.

The initiation block is filled out by the home unit/agency when the Next Gen PTB is issued. It indicates that the designated individual is recognized by the home unit/agency as a trainee in the position.

The verification block is completed by the final evaluator once the trainee has successfully met or exceeded satisfactory performance of all tasks in the Next Gen PTB and is recommended for certification by the final evaluator.

The agency certification block is completed by the certifying official of the home unit/agency. It provides a record that the trainee has been certified and is qualified in the position.

POSITION EVALUATION TABLE:

The position evaluation table is used to record the evaluations that a trainee receives for each training assignment. A rating must be provided for each task in the position evaluation table on every training assignment.

The position evaluation table lists the tasks required to be evaluated for successful performance in the position. See the *NWCG Position-Specific Standards for Operations Section Chiefs*, PMS 350-08, for further guidance. Additional tasks that are not required to be evaluated are covered in the Position-Specific Standards. These tasks still represent standards for successful performance in the position and should be included in a comprehensive training assignment.

The Next Gen PTB includes four columns to record ratings for each task. If the training assignment is not the first assignment for a trainee, the evaluator should review the position evaluation table and position evaluation records of the previous training assignments. A trainee does not have to complete four training assignments to be recommended for certification. The home unit will determine the appropriate number of assignments. If additional training assignments are needed, a second position evaluation table should be utilized and attached to the PTB.

Each task must be rated during each training assignment. The evaluator will rate the performance of the tasks as follows:

N/O = No opportunity to perform the task.

D = Does not meet the standard for the task as described in the Position-Specific Standards.

M = Meets the standard for the task as described in the Position-Specific Standards.

E = Exceeds the standard for the task as described in the Position-Specific Standards.

The evaluator will indicate their rating of the trainee's performance by marking their rating (N/O, D, M or E) in the column for each task in the position evaluation table. If the trainee does not meet the standard (i.e., is rated D for a task), the evaluator must provide written explanation with suggestions for improvement in the position evaluation record. This may include redirecting the trainee to the Position-Specific Standards for review. Written feedback is encouraged for all other ratings. Prior to certification, the trainee must attain a rating of M or E for each of the identified tasks.

Each task has a code associated with the type of training assignment where the task must be completed. Tasks must be evaluated on the specific types of incidents/events for which they are coded. If multiple codes are listed for a task, the task must be evaluated on one of the listed incidents/events. For example, W/S indicates the task must be performed on a wildfire or during a simulation. The codes are defined as:

I = Incident: Task must be performed on an incident managed under the Incident Command System (ICS). Examples include wildland fire, structural fire, oil spill, search and rescue, hazardous material, and an emergency or non-emergency (planned prescribed fire or unplanned) event.

W = Wildfire: Task must be performed on a wildfire incident.

RX = Prescribed fire: Task must be performed on a prescribed fire incident.

R = Rare event: Rare events such as accidents, injuries, vehicle, or aircraft crashes occur infrequently and opportunities to evaluate performance in a real setting are limited. The evaluator should determine, through interview, if the trainee would be able to perform the task in a real situation.

S = Simulation: Task must be performed during a simulation. The simulation activity must realistically mimic the task and allow the evaluator to determine if the trainee would be able to perform the task in a real situation. Resources are available on the NWCG Leadership Committee's Tactical Decision Games webpage <https://www.nwcg.gov/wfldp/toolbox/tactical-decision-games>.

O = Other: In any situation (classroom, simulation, daily job, incident, prescribed fire, etc.).

POSITION EVALUATION RECORD:

The position evaluation record is used to document the specific details of each training assignment, and to document the evaluators final recommendation regarding position certification. A new position evaluation record is required for each training assignment.

Position Evaluation Record Number

Each evaluator will need to complete a position evaluation record. Each position evaluation record should be numbered sequentially. Place this number at the top of the position evaluation record page and use this number to determine which column to rate the trainee in the position evaluation table.

Trainee Information

Print the trainee's name and indicate if the assignment is virtual.

Evaluator Information

Print the evaluator's name, position on the incident/event, IQCS/IQS number, home unit/agency, and the home unit/agency address and phone number. Evaluators must be either qualified in the position being evaluated or supervise the trainee, and final evaluators must be qualified in the position they are evaluating. The evaluator's relevant qualification field is below the evaluator's signature line on the position evaluation record.

Incident/Event Information

Incident/Event Name: Print the incident/event name.

Reference: Enter the incident code and/or fire code.

Duration: Enter inclusive dates during which the trainee was evaluated.

Incident Kind: Check the kind of incident and specify if other (e.g., search, and rescue, flood, etc.).

Location: Enter the geographic area, agency, and state.

Management Type or Prescribed Fire Complexity Level: Check the ICS organization level or the prescribed fire complexity level.

Fire Behavior Prediction System (FBPS) Fuel Model Group: Check the fuel model group that corresponds to the predominant fuel type in which the incident/event occurred.

Grass Group (includes FBPS Fuel Models 1 – 3): 1 = short grass (1 foot); 2 = timber with grass understory; 3 = tall grass (1½ - 2 feet)

Brush Group (includes FBPS Fuel Models 4 – 6): 4 = chaparral (6 feet); 5 = brush (2 feet); 6 = dormant brush/hardwood slash; 7 = southern rough

Timber Group (includes FBPS Fuel Models 8 – 10): 8 = closed timber litter; 9 = hardwood litter; 10 = timber (with litter understory)

Slash Group (includes FBPS Fuel Models 11 – 13): 11 = light logging slash; 12 = medium logging slash; 13 = heavy logging slash

Evaluator's Recommendation

The last block in the position evaluation record is for the evaluator's recommendation of trainee. The evaluator will initial only one line 1 – 3. If the evaluator is recommending the trainee for certification, the evaluator will also fill out the verification block of the Signature Page.

Remarks on Individual Performance

This section provides space for written narrative of the trainee's performance. If the trainee does not meet the standard (i.e., is rated D for a task), the evaluator must provide written explanation with suggestions for improvement on the position evaluation record. This may include redirecting the trainee to the Position-Specific Standards for review. This is meant as an opportunity to provide informative and constructive feedback to the trainee and the trainee's home unit, so they know what to focus on in the future.

At the conclusion of the training assignment, the evaluator and trainee should discuss the training assignment, ratings, and evaluator recommendations. When this is done, the trainee, and evaluator will sign and date the position evaluation record on the lines indicated.

Additionally, the Next Gen PTB can be used as an evaluation tool for qualified individuals.

COMPLETION OF A NEXT GEN PTB:

When an evaluator recommends a trainee for certification, the trainee is responsible for ensuring the Next Gen PTB is complete and submitted to the home unit/agency for review by the certifying official. The complete Next Gen PTB package includes the signature page with the verification block signed by the final evaluator, the position evaluation table, and every position evaluation record.



NWCG POSITION EVALUATION TABLE OPERATIONS BRANCH DIRECTOR (OPBD)

Trainee Name: _____

All tasks must be evaluated and assigned one of the four ratings for each assignment. If the trainee does not meet the standard (i.e., is rated D for a task), the evaluator must provide written explanation with suggestions for improvement on the position evaluation record. Written feedback is encouraged for all other ratings.

N/O = No opportunity to perform the task.

D = Does not meet the standard for the task as described in the Position-Specific Standards.

M = Meets the standard for the task as described in the Position-Specific Standards.

E = Exceeds the standard for the task as described in the Position-Specific Standards.

***For further information see the *NWCG Position-Specific Standards for Operations Section Chiefs*, PMS 350-08.**

Standard Tasks for the Position of Operations Branch Director

	Leadership Level 4, Leader of Leaders (Provide Direction)	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
1	<p>The distance between the leader and the led increases the challenges of leading. Subordinate leaders frequently work in other locations, so face-to-face communication is not always possible.</p> <p>As a result, the circumstances for building trust are more complex: even so, the trust must withstand the pressures of time and distance, enabling leaders to confidently communicate intent and delegate responsibility. These leaders act as the conduit between the organization and the people on the ground, interpreting the vision into mission and translating abstract ideas so subordinate leaders can take definitive action.</p> <p>[See the Wildland Fire Leadership Levels, for a description, behaviors, and knowledge representative of a Leader of Leaders, https://www.nwcg.gov/committee/leadership-committee/leadership-levels.]</p>	I				

	Build the Team	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
2	Receive an in-brief of the current incident status and review established Incident Management Team (IMT) guidelines.	I				

Standard Tasks for the Position of Operations Branch Director

	Build the Team	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
3	Evaluate pertinent parts of the delegation of authority, leader's intent, Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS), or other incident decision documents as directed by the Operations Section Chief (OSC).	W				
4	Facilitate and coordinate the ordering of operational resources.	I/S				
5	Establish and communicate a common operating picture with supervisors and subordinates.	I				

	Lead, Supervise, Direct	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
6	Model leadership values and principles. Provide a positive influence. Emphasize teamwork.	I				
7	Establish and communicate objectives, priorities, work assignments, and performance expectations.	I				
8	Formulate and communicate strategic plans and alternatives to OSC for approval.	I				
9	Adjust actions based on changing information and evolving situational awareness.	I				
10	Communicate changing conditions to supervisors and subordinates.	I				
11	Monitor performance and provide immediate and regular feedback to subordinates.	I				
12	Develop and propagate consistent leader's intent up and down the chain of command.	I				
13	Apply knowledge of leadership styles and methods to diffuse conflict.	I				
14	Provide field leadership, while making sound and timely decisions in complex and high stress environments.	I				
15	Demonstrate the ability to develop and deliver appropriate messages to diverse audiences.	I				
16	Identify and provide training opportunities.	I				

Standard Tasks for the Position of Operations Branch Director

	Perform Operations Branch Director-Specific Duties	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
17	Organize branch, divisions/groups, and/or staging areas.	I				
18	Recommend daily briefing/debriefing schedule for branch to OSC.	I				
19	Participate in operational period briefing and provide key information to branch leadership and personnel.	I				
20	Ensure host unit direction and policies are applied to daily operations.	I				
21	Manage operational periods to achieve objectives (e.g., swing shift, night shift, holding).	I				
22	Ground truth proposed operational strategies.	I				
23	Plan strategically to estimate immediate and long-range operational resource and logistical requirements.	I				
24	Continually evaluate resource status and tactical needs to determine if resource assignments are effective and efficient.	I				
25	Evaluate structure protection and wildland urban interface (WUI) needs as appropriate.	W				
26	Evaluate current situation and determine if current strategy and tactics will meet incident objectives and advise OSC.	I				
27	Use fire behavior prediction information to plan and organize tactical/strategic operations.	W				
28	Establish and maintain appropriate span of control.	I				
29	Ensure assigned Division/Group Supervisor (DIVS) receive Fire Weather Watches/Warnings, Spot Weather Forecasts, and Fire Weather Forecasts.	W				
30	Ensure accuracy of Division Group Assignment List (ICS 204 WF) resource information, work assignments (task, purpose, end state), special instructions, and communication summary.	W				
31	Coordinate firing and holding operations in conjunction with DIVS, aerial supervision, and OSC.	W				
32	Coordinate tactical operations between DIVS, aerial supervision, and OSC.	I				
33	Coordinate with assigned DIVS and provide OSC a list of excess resources according to established IMT guidelines.	I				

Standard Tasks for the Position of Operations Branch Director

	Perform Operations Branch Director-Specific Duties	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
34	Coordinate WUI operations with local law enforcement, local fire departments, and other agencies authorized to implement public evacuation, perform structure protection, control traffic, and road closures.	W/S				

	Planning Duties	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
35	Provide OSC with resource needs within specified timeframe. Notify OSC when resources are moved or shared between divisions/groups to ensure coordination with other functional areas.	I				
36	Validate strategic plans and/or provide recommendations for alternative control line locations.	W				
37	Communicate relevant information for planning meetings following IMT guidelines.	I				

	Communicate and Coordinate	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
38	Communicate with the OSC and other functional areas to coordinate support for operational needs (e.g., land use agreements, Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement [EERA], meals).	I				
39	Establish communications and exchange necessary information with other functional areas (e.g., logistics, finance, public information).	I				
40	Ensure strategies, tactics, priorities, and changes are communicated and understood throughout the branch.	I				
41	Coordinate with OSC and DIVS to recommend priorities for Safety Officers, Line Medics, Resource Advisors (READs), Resource Advisors, Fireline (REAFs), Archaeologists (ARCHs), and Field Observers (FOBS).	I				
42	Work with responsible land management agency and/or assigned Resource Advisor Coordinator (REAC)/READ/REAF/ARCH to mitigate impacts to natural, cultural, social, and other resources.	I				
43	Conduct and/or participate in After Action Reviews (AAR).	O				

Standard Tasks for the Position of Operations Branch Director

	Manage Risk	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
44	Ensure the Risk Management Process is established and applied throughout the branch.	I				
45	Ensure operational safety measures are in place prior to engagement (e.g., <i>IRPG</i> , 10 and 18, <i>LCES</i> , Look Up, Down, and Around).	W				
46	Ensure contingency plans and trigger points are developed and communicated.	I				
47	Consider resource effectiveness and modify tactics to balance probability of success and acceptable risk.	I				
48	Monitor and address air quality/smoke impacts to personnel, the public, and operations (e.g., roads, communities, incident facilities).	W				
49	Validate aviation use and effectiveness and ensure coordination between aviation and ground resources.	I				
50	Monitor and update aerial supervision regarding effectiveness of aviation tactics and adjust accordingly as necessary.	W				
51	Coordinate with Safety Officers (SOF) to assist with the Risk Management Process and provide input into the safety of operations.	I				
52	Ensure all branch personnel understand assigned medical resource capabilities, communication procedures, and transportation plan.	I				
53	Provide oversight of medical emergencies based on procedures stated in the Medical Plan (ICS 206 WF), the Medical Incident Report, and IMT guidelines.	R				
54	Monitor resources for signs and symptoms of smoke exposure, fatigue, illness, injury, and work/rest ratios, and communicate mitigation needs.	W				

	Document	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
55	Follow IMT guidelines for the tracking and documentation of accountable property.	I				
56	Complete all administrative tasks and documentation in an accurate and timely manner.	I				

Standard Tasks for the Position of Operations Branch Director

	Demobilize	CODE	Position Evaluation Record Number			
			1	2	3	4
57	During transfer of command ensure continuity of operations, exchange critical information (e.g., safety, contacts, cooperators), and communicate transfer of authority through established chain of command.	I				

POSITION EVALUATION RECORD

#

Trainee Information

Printed Name: _____ Virtual Assignment: Yes No
Position on Incident/Event: _____

Evaluator Information

Printed Name: _____ Evaluator Position on Incident/Event: _____
Home Unit/Agency: _____ Evaluator IQCS/IQS #: _____
Home Unit /Agency Address and Phone Number: _____

Incident/Event Information

Incident/Event Name: _____ Reference (Incident Number/Fire Code): _____
Duration: _____
Location (include Geographic Area, Agency, and State): _____
Incident Kind: Wildfire Prescribed Fire All Hazard Other (specify): _____
Management Type: Type 5 Type 4 Type 3 Type 2 Type 1 Complex Area Command
OR Prescribed Fire Complexity Level: Low Moderate High
FBPS Fuel Model: Grass Brush Timber Slash

Evaluator's Recommendation (Initial only one line as appropriate)

- _____ 1) The trainee meets or exceeds satisfactory performance of all tasks under my supervision and/or on a prior trainee experience, as documented on position evaluation records. I have completed the final evaluator's verification section and recommend the trainee be considered for agency certification.
- _____ 2) The tasks indicated on the evaluation table have been performed under my supervision. However, either opportunities were not available for all tasks to be performed and evaluated on this assignment or prior position evaluation records, or the trainee did not meet satisfactory performance on at least one task and needs additional evaluation.
- _____ 3) The trainee does not display satisfactory performance of the tasks for the position and additional training, guidance, and/or experience are recommended prior to another training assignment.

Remarks on Individual Performance (Use additional sheets as necessary)

Trainee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Evaluator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Evaluator's Relevant Qualification (or agency certification): _____

POSITION EVALUATION RECORD

#

Trainee Information

Printed Name: _____ Virtual Assignment: Yes No
Position on Incident/Event: _____

Evaluator Information

Printed Name: _____ Evaluator Position on Incident/Event: _____
Home Unit/Agency: _____ Evaluator IQCS/IQS #: _____
Home Unit /Agency Address and Phone Number: _____

Incident/Event Information

Incident/Event Name: _____ Reference (Incident Number/Fire Code): _____
Duration: _____
Location (include Geographic Area, Agency, and State): _____
Incident Kind: Wildfire Prescribed Fire All Hazard Other (specify): _____
Management Type: Type 5 Type 4 Type 3 Type 2 Type 1 Complex Area Command
OR Prescribed Fire Complexity Level: Low Moderate High
FBPS Fuel Model: Grass Brush Timber Slash

Evaluator's Recommendation (Initial only one line as appropriate)

- _____ 1) The trainee meets or exceeds satisfactory performance of all tasks under my supervision and/or on a prior trainee experience, as documented on position evaluation records. I have completed the final evaluator's verification section and recommend the trainee be considered for agency certification.
- _____ 2) The tasks indicated on the evaluation table have been performed under my supervision. However, either opportunities were not available for all tasks to be performed and evaluated on this assignment or prior position evaluation records, or the trainee did not meet satisfactory performance on at least one task and needs additional evaluation.
- _____ 3) The trainee does not display satisfactory performance of the tasks for the position and additional training, guidance, and/or experience are recommended prior to another training assignment.
-

Remarks on Individual Performance (Use additional sheets as necessary)

Trainee's Signature: _____ Date: _____
Evaluator's Signature: _____ Date: _____
Evaluator's Relevant Qualification (or agency certification): _____

POSITION EVALUATION RECORD

#

Trainee Information

Printed Name: _____ Virtual Assignment: Yes No
Position on Incident/Event: _____

Evaluator Information

Printed Name: _____ Evaluator Position on Incident/Event: _____
Home Unit/Agency: _____ Evaluator IQCS/IQS #: _____
Home Unit /Agency Address and Phone Number: _____

Incident/Event Information

Incident/Event Name: _____ Reference (Incident Number/Fire Code): _____
Duration: _____
Location (include Geographic Area, Agency, and State): _____
Incident Kind: Wildfire Prescribed Fire All Hazard Other (specify): _____
Management Type: Type 5 Type 4 Type 3 Type 2 Type 1 Complex Area Command
OR Prescribed Fire Complexity Level: Low Moderate High
FBPS Fuel Model: Grass Brush Timber Slash

Evaluator's Recommendation (Initial only one line as appropriate)

- _____ 1) The trainee meets or exceeds satisfactory performance of all tasks under my supervision and/or on a prior trainee experience, as documented on position evaluation records. I have completed the final evaluator's verification section and recommend the trainee be considered for agency certification.
- _____ 2) The tasks indicated on the evaluation table have been performed under my supervision. However, either opportunities were not available for all tasks to be performed and evaluated on this assignment or prior position evaluation records, or the trainee did not meet satisfactory performance on at least one task and needs additional evaluation.
- _____ 3) The trainee does not display satisfactory performance of the tasks for the position and additional training, guidance, and/or experience are recommended prior to another training assignment.

Remarks on Individual Performance (Use additional sheets as necessary)

Trainee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Evaluator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Evaluator's Relevant Qualification (or agency certification): _____

POSITION EVALUATION RECORD

#

Trainee Information

Printed Name: _____ Virtual Assignment: Yes No
Position on Incident/Event: _____

Evaluator Information

Printed Name: _____ Evaluator Position on Incident/Event: _____
Home Unit/Agency: _____ Evaluator IQCS/IQS #: _____
Home Unit /Agency Address and Phone Number: _____

Incident/Event Information

Incident/Event Name: _____ Reference (Incident Number/Fire Code): _____
Duration: _____
Location (include Geographic Area, Agency, and State): _____
Incident Kind: Wildfire Prescribed Fire All Hazard Other (specify): _____
Management Type: Type 5 Type 4 Type 3 Type 2 Type 1 Complex Area Command
OR Prescribed Fire Complexity Level: Low Moderate High
FBPS Fuel Model: Grass Brush Timber Slash

Evaluator's Recommendation (Initial only one line as appropriate)

- _____ 1) The trainee meets or exceeds satisfactory performance of all tasks under my supervision and/or on a prior trainee experience, as documented on position evaluation records. I have completed the final evaluator's verification section and recommend the trainee be considered for agency certification.
- _____ 2) The tasks indicated on the evaluation table have been performed under my supervision. However, either opportunities were not available for all tasks to be performed and evaluated on this assignment or prior position evaluation records, or the trainee did not meet satisfactory performance on at least one task and needs additional evaluation.
- _____ 3) The trainee does not display satisfactory performance of the tasks for the position and additional training, guidance, and/or experience are recommended prior to another training assignment.

Remarks on Individual Performance (Use additional sheets as necessary)

Trainee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Evaluator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Evaluator's Relevant Qualification (or agency certification): _____